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The Industrial History of Modern England. By GEORGE HERBERT PERRIS. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1914. Pp. xix, 603. \$2.00.)

While this book adds nothing in any particular field to more original researches already consummated, it serves as an excellent interpretation of the recent social history of Great Britain from the standpoint of a journalist and publicist, who is likewise an anti-imperialist, secretary of the Cobden Club, pacifist, and enthusiastic supporter of the radical tendencies of the present Liberal government.

In the first third of the volume, Mr. Perris clearly indicates how, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Corn Laws and Enclosures combined with the comparatively sudden industrial changes to effect the great social revolution; how the attendant conflict between landowners and manufacturers issued in the economic and political triumph of the latter; how the teachings of Malthus and Ricardo were seized upon to establish and consecrate a practically unrestrained *laissez faire*, which brought wealth to the few and poverty to the many. All this is familiar, but it is told entertainingly and pretty carefully. Probably it is a natural partisan bias which prevents the author from being quite fair to the tory Radicals of that period: he gives them no credit for the repeal of the Combination Laws in 1824 and barely mentions Sadler, Shaftesbury, and the "Christian Socialists."

Less clear is the author's treatment of the years from 1849 to 1886. Though he presents many facts as to the unprecedented growth of national wealth and as to the persistence of poverty and misery among the working classes, the connection of these facts with politics is less apparent. Perhaps, had he frankly confessed that from 1832 to 1886 the politics of Great Britain were largely dominated by well-to-do Liberals in the economic interest of their own class, he would have been obliged to modify his glowing eulogies of Cobden and Gladstone and to explain why Disraeli was concerned with the parliamentary reform of 1867.

Especially well done are the last two chapters, entitled *The Awakening* and *The New Age*. It is with much skill and discernment that Mr. Perris has set forth important factors contributory to the break-up of the Victorian Compromise in the eighties and nineties and the gradual substitution in the popular mind of the doctrines of state action for those of *laissez-faire*. Among such factors he might magnanimously have included Joseph Chamber-

lain's pioneer work in the city of Birmingham and eloquent preaching of social reforms throughout the nation, as well as the amazing land acts bestowed upon Ireland by the Unionist party as bulwarks against home rule, and the foreign examples of state action, particularly in Germany. The last chapter affords a convenient guide to, and analysis of, the important social legislation enacted under Liberal auspices since 1906—legislation which will remain as a monument to the change of heart that overtook the British people just on the eve of the greatest crisis in their internal as well as external history, the Great War of 1914.

In all cases Mr. Perris has based his work on most eminent authorities; and he has produced, on the whole, an accurate and very readable book, which will prove to be a useful manual for courses in modern economic history. The book contains seven appendices, largely statistical in character, an up-to-date bibliography, and a convenient index.

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NEW BOOKS

ANDRÉADÈS, A. *L'administration financière des Vénitiens dans les îles ioniennes.* (Athens: Hestia. 1914. Pp. 419; 351.)

BAASCH, E. *Die Handelskammer zu Hamburg. 1665-1915.* Three volumes. (Hamburg: Gräfe & Sillem. 1915. Pp. x, 738; vii, 838; viii, 966. 40 M.)

BARKER, J. E. *Modern Germany: her political and economic problems.* Fifth edition, revised to January, 1915. (London: Smith, Elder. 1915. Pp. 864. 7s. 6d.)

BARRON, C. W. *The audacious war.* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 1915. Pp. xiv, 192. \$1.)

Contains chapters on tariffs and commerce and the war causes, French finance, and English war finance.

BENETSCH, A. *Die volkswirtschaftliche Bedeutung der Torfmoore und Wasserkräfte, unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Luftstickstofffrage.* (Berlin: Siemenroth. 1914. Pp. v, 299. 5.50 M.)

BOWMAN and DODGE. *An English translation of Brunhes' "La Géographie Humaine."* (New York: Rand, McNally. 1915.)

BUECHER, K. and SCHMIDT, B. *Frankfurter Amts- und Zunfturkunden bis zum Jahre 1612.* Two volumes. (Frankfurt a. M.: Joseph Baer. 1914.)

BURROWS, H. L. *English industry and trade. A reader for upper classes of primary schools and the middle forms of secondary schools.* (London: Black. 1915. 1s. 6d.)